



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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KIRTLANDER COLLECTING PAIR OF AWARDS FROM GOVERNOR

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KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – Vivian Gomez this month will receive two of New Mexico's most prestigious awards: the Governor's Award for Outstanding New Mexico Women and the Distinguished Public Service Award. Gomez is an electrician with the 377th Civil Engineer Group.

She received the first award at the 12th Annual Governor's Award Banquet for Outstanding New Mexico Women Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Albuquerque Hilton. The second event is the Distinguished Public Service Awards Banquet Friday at 6 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel.

Gomez started her career at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., as a KC-135 tanker electrician. She was responsible for maintaining, modifying and performing functional checks of critical components to keep the aircraft able to fly refueling missions whenever needed.

Since she was assigned to the 377th Civil Engineer Group, she has accomplished a wide variety of electrical work, from providing new outlets to the complex tasks associated with rewiring old facilities to meet code requirements.



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She actively supports community programs such as the Combined Federal Campaign, Kirtland Women's Heritage Month, the annual Spirit Fourth of July celebrations, Winter and Summer Special Olympics, and the Albuquerque Youth Diagnostic and Development Center.

Gomez belongs to the CE Group's Civilian Information Association and the Kirtland Management Association, and she is a director of the youth ministry in her church. She's on the Board of Directors for the Girls Scouts of America, Chaparral Chapter. She was a recipient of a 1994 Federal Woman of the Year Award.

Gov. Gary Johnson presented the first award Saturday and will present the second award at Friday's banquets.

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Note to editors: For more information, contact Senior Airman Paul Gritton, (505) 846-7019/5991. The image can be found at <http://www.kirtland.af.mil/pa/images/gomez.jpg>